



Date: January 30, 2020
To: All Department Heads
From: Alejandrina Basquez, Director of Human Resources 
Subject: Information Regarding Novel Coronavirus for City of Long Beach Employees

The City of Long Beach Health Officer has issued a bulletin regarding the coronavirus outbreak. Please distribute the attached bulletin to all City employees and post the bulletin on employee bulletin boards. The bulletin includes information regarding the coronavirus and guidance and other resources for preventing exposures to, and infections with, 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

If you have any workplace safety questions, please contact Joleen Richardson, City Safety Officer at (562) 570-6476.

Should you have any questions regarding the coronavirus, please contact the Communicable Disease Control Program at (562) 570-4302.

CC: THOMAS B. MODICA, ACTING CITY MANAGER
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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
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HEALTH OFFICER BULLETIN

The human coronaviruses cause mild-to-moderate respiratory illness. Symptoms are very similar to the flu, including runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, fever, and shortness of breath. There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection. Transmission it is thought to occur via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other cold viruses are spread. There is no evidence of person-to-person transmission in the U.S. at this time, but it could occur in the future.

Passengers from China are currently being screened for fever and respiratory illness at airports throughout the United States, including LAX and other California airports. Therefore, any passengers from Wuhan who travel to Long Beach Airport will have been previously screened.

As of January 29 five cases in travelers from Wuhan have been confirmed in the U.S., one case in Arizona, two cases in California, one case in Illinois, and one case in Washington. Presently, the risk to Long Beach residents and employees remains low.

What can the City of Long Beach Employees do?

Right now, 2019-nCoV has not been found to be spreading in the United States, so there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public to take. As a reminder, CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ✓ Stay home when you are sick.
- ✓ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- ✓ Get a flu vaccine; it's not too late for this season!

The situation is evolving rapidly, and our Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services is monitoring the outbreak activity closely and preparing in case there are local cases. Their website (www.longbeach.gov/novelcoronavirus) is being updated in real time and DHHS staff is maintaining daily communications with hospitals, urgent care centers and emergency departments. Also, staff is in constant communication with CDC and the California Department of Public Health and continues to provide risk communication to the public.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact the Communicable Disease Control Program at 562.570.4302.